

Monday, April 1, 1996

Jane Mallett Theatre,
St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

Margison

An Evening with Richard Margison & Friends

a concert to benefit Esprit Orchestra

Excellence

We're pleased
to support Esprit
Orchestra in this
evening with
Richard Margison
& friends.



ScotiaMcLeod
Building Relationships for Life

The Programme

An Evening with Richard Margison & Friends a concert to benefit Esprit Orchestra

presented by:



ScotiaMcLeod

Featuring Richard Margison, tenor
with Peter Barzca (baritone), Rebecca Hass (mezzo-soprano),
Stuart Hamilton (piano), Evergreen Club (gamelan) &
Joseph Macerollo, accordion

arias and duets

C'est toi, c'est moi
duet from *Carmen*, 1875 by Georges Bizet

Richard Margison &
Rebecca Hass

O Souverain, O Juge, O Pere
aria from *Le Cid*, 1885 by Jules Massenet

Richard Margison

La dona russa
aria from *Fedora*, 1898 by Umberto Giordano

Peter Barzca

Stride la vampa
aria from *Il trovatore*, 1853 by Giuseppe Verdi

Rebecca Hass

E lui desso! l'infante!
duet from *Don Carlo*, 1867 by Giuseppe Verdi

Richard Margison &
Peter Barzca

Ah si, ben mio
aria from *Il trovatore*, 1853 by Giuseppe Verdi

Richard Margison

intermission

Madre, non dormi?
duet from *il trovatore*, 1853 by Giuseppe Verdi

Richard Margison &
Rebecca Hass

Di Provenza
aria from *La traviata*, 1853 by Giuseppe Verdi

Peter Barzca

Solenne in quest'ora
duet from *La forza del destino*, 1862 by Giuseppe Verdi

Richard Margison &
Peter Barzca

Habañera
aria from *Carmen*, 1875 by Georges Bizet

Rebecca Hass

Nessun dorma
aria from *Turandot*, 1926 by Giacomo Puccini

Richard Margison

The Artists

Richard Margison (tenor)

Richard Margison was born in Victoria, British Columbia where he studied piano and voice. He began voice studies with Selena James at the Victoria Conservatory of Music in 1976, that same year winning the regional Metropolitan Opera auditions. He made his debut with the Pacific Opera Victoria in 1980 in *The Barber of Seville* (Count Almaviva) and with the Vancouver Opera in 1985 in *Eugene Onegin* (Lenski), and performed regularly with both companies throughout the 1980s. He made his Canadian Opera Company debut in the Canadian premiere of *The Makropoulos Case* in 1989, the same year he made his European debut at the English National Opera playing Riccardo in *Un ballo in maschera*.

Mr. Margison made his Metropolitan Opera debut in April, 1995 singing the role of Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* - conducted by Placido Domingo - and his top-rank standing in the world's tenor elite was confirmed by his performance of Don José in the Met's 1995/96 season premiere production of *Carmen* with Denyce Graves, Barbara Frittoli and Serge Leiferkus, conducted by John Fiore. Margison returned to the Met this past March to resume his role in *Carmen*, which included the broadcast performance *Live from the Met* on Saturday, March 23, 1996.

This past winter Margison has been performing leading tenor roles in operas around the world including Verdi's *Il trovatore* (Vienna); Puccini's *Il*

trittico (Hamburg) and *Madama Butterfly* (San Francisco).

The Canadian Opera Company's recently released CBC Records' CD - *Rarities by Verdi and Rossini* - features Richard Margison with Gary Relyea (bass) and Wendy Nielsen (soprano). Mr. Margison's first solo aria disc of French and Italian Opera - also on CBC Records' SM5000 label and with the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Richard Bradshaw conducting - will be released this April. And this spring he will record the title role in Philips Records' new *Don Carlo*; Bernard Haitink conducts Margison and international co-stars Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Dimitri Hvorostovsky.

When not travelling the world Margison lives in Toronto with his wife, violist Valerie Kuinka, and daughter.



Richard Margison



Rebecca Hass

Stuart Hamilton (Piano)

Throughout his impressive and international career, Stuart Hamilton, C.M. has been the singer's champion, giving some of the world's most important artists their initial opportunities to be heard in leading roles - among them Richard Margison, Rosemarie Landry, Ben Heppner, Mark DuBois and Gino Quilico.

Well known as a vocal coach and accompanist, Mr. Hamilton has appeared throughout North America and Europe with many of the world's leading concert artists - Maureen Forrester, Lois Marshall and José Carreras, to name a few. As a soloist, he has performed across Canada, in New York and in England.

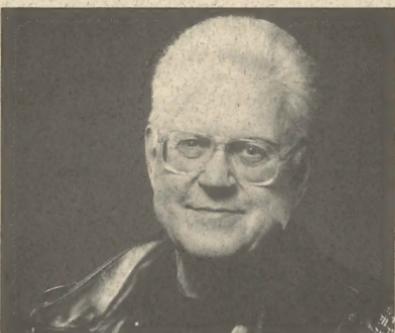
Mr. Hamilton is the Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of the successful series Opera in Concert. He was the first Music Director of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble, one of the original programs of its sort in North America, and appears regularly

for the CBC as lecturer and commentator. Mr. Hamilton is quizmaster for the CBC's most popular program, *Saturday Afternoon at the Opera*, and appears as a panelist on the *Opera Quiz* from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Widely recognized for his contribution to musical life in Canada, Mr. Hamilton has been awarded the Order of Canada (1984); The Toronto Arts Award in the Performing Arts category (1989) and the Governor General's Medal (1992).

Evergreen Club (gamelan)

The Evergreen Club, Canada's first performing gamelan, is an ensemble of eight skilled musicians who perform on a collection of bronze and wooden instruments. Together these instruments are known as a gamelan - an important part of Indonesian musical life for centuries. Of the wide variety of gamelan prevalent in Indonesia, the Evergreen Club uses a gamelan *degung*, originating from the west part of Java and especially associated with the city of Bandung.



Stuart Hamilton

Peter Barcza (baritone)

Peter Barcza is one of Canada's leading baritones, winning critical acclaim both at home and around the world. He began his career with the Canadian Opera Company and has since sung more than thirty leading roles with major opera companies in Canada, the United States and Europe.

In Canada Barcza has appeared with all the major opera companies including the Vancouver Opera, Opera Lyra (Ottawa), L'Opéra de Montréal and Opera in Concert (Toronto). He has sung in concert with the Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and Montreal Symphonies, to name a few, and on CBC Radio and Television.

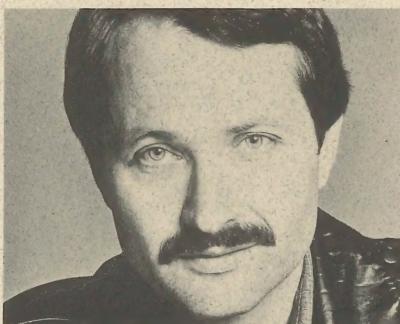
In the United States, he has performed Germont in *La traviata* and Marcello in *La bohème* with the New York City Opera, DiLuna in *Il trovatore* and the title role in *Rigoletto* with Seattle Opera. He has also sung with the New Orleans, Connecticut, Memphis, Rochester and Kentucky Operas and the Opera Orchestra of New York.

Mr. Barcza has appeared in Belgium with the Opéra Royal de Wallonie, at the Centro Internacional de Opera in Mexico City, at the Bad Hersfeld Festival in Germany, on Radio France and at the Paris Opéra.

where she served as Artist-in-Residence in 1991. She was also a member of San Francisco Opera's Merola Program in 1991. Hass was a member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble from 1989 to 1991, after having served an apprenticeship there throughout the 1988 to 1989 season. During that time she prepared a number of roles, including Octavian, Carmen, Marcellina, Rosina, Cherubino, Nicklausse, Nero, and Flora. Some of her many performances include the roles of Mary in *Der fliegende Holländer*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, Maddalena in *Rigoletto* and Sister Mathilde in *Dialogues des Carmelites*.

A recent recipient of the Vancouver Opera Guild Award, Ms. Hass was a finalist in the Madama Butterfly Competition held in Barcelona in the Spring, 1992. In 1994 she was awarded a Jean A. Chalmer's Award.

This spring Ms. Hass performs the title role in *Carmen* with the Newfoundland Symphony, and in the coming Fall performs Fenena in Edmonton Opera's production of *Nabucco*.



Peter Barcza

Rebecca Hass (mezzo-soprano)

Canadian mezzo-soprano Rebecca Hass has performed with opera companies across Canada, including the Canadian Opera Company, Calgary Opera, Opera Lyra (Ottawa) and Vancouver Opera -

Joseph Macerollo (accordion)

Based in Toronto, the ensemble was formed in 1983 by Canadian composer Jon Siddall. The eight members are all highly trained percussionists with musical expertise ranging from western classical and jazz to a variety of World Music traditions. In addition to performing traditional Indonesian music, the Evergreen Club has performed the world premieres of several works by leading composers - including John Cage, who wrote a piece especially for them.

The group has toured throughout Canada and Europe, performing to great critical acclaim and released its first CD in 1987. The Evergreen Club's most recent recording is *Palace*, released this past February.

Joseph Macerollo is a graduate of the University of Toronto, where he now teaches. In addition to his work as a highly acclaimed accordionist, Macerollo is involved with music organizations in Canada and throughout the world, including the International Accordion Society (Finland) of which Macerollo is founder and a current Board member. He is President of the Pro Arte Orchestra and the Classical Accordion Society of Canada and sits on several other Boards of Directors.

Macerollo's outstanding performances on the accordion have resulted in countless commissions to Canadian composers from such sources as the Ontario Arts Council, The Canada Council and the CBC. He has toured extensively both nationally and internationally, appearing with major ensembles like the Orford and Purcell Quartets and NEXUS, as well as orchestras like the Toronto Symphony, the National Arts Orchestra and the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra.

Mr. Macerollo is frequently heard playing accordion parts in Canadian films and commercials. He has accompanied world renowned opera stars Luciano Pavarotti and Teresa Stratas and played extensively for Henry Mancini. He has recorded several solo LPs and his first compact disc will appear this April on the CBC Records' Musica Viva Series.



Joseph Macerollo

Margison

Esprit Orchestra gratefully acknowledges
the following for their support of An
Evening with Richard Margison & Friends:

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Rebecca Hass

Joseph Macerollo

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Benefactors of tonight's concert receive an advance copy of Richard Margison's soon-to-be-released solo compact disc on CBC Records (SMCD5158). The disc - *French and Italian Arias* - features the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, under the direction of Richard Bradshaw, with Richard Margison performing 15 of the most famous French and Italian opera arias written for tenor voice. It includes selections from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Massenet's *Werther* and Bizet's *Carmen*.

French and Italian Arias will be available in stores this April.

Opera Raffle

Win one of two get-away-weekends for two to New York City
including airfare (economy return), two nights hotel accomodation and tickets for
two to a performance at the **Metropolitan Opera** (1996/97 season).

Tickets are \$5 each; \$10 for three.

Details and tickets are available in the lobby at intermission.
The draw will take place from the stage in the second half of this evening's concert.



*Richard Margison as Don José in
the Metropolitan Opera's production of Carmen, 1995*

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The St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts is Toronto's Civic Cultural Centre owned by the City of Toronto and managed by a volunteer Board appointed by the City.

Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance or intermission. This is done at the discretion of House Management. The use of photographic equipment, personal stereos or recording devices is strictly prohibited by law in this theatre. Please check them with House Management. The St. Lawrence Centre does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen articles.

